

Message Text

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65

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 /026 W

----- 065590

R 141600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3290

UNCLAS BANJUL 0399

DAKAR FOR USIS PASS AMBASSADOR

STATE FOR CU/AF

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SCUL OEXC GA

SUBJECT: MANAGER GAMBIA NATIONAL TROUPE DESIRES "WORKING"
VISIT TO US

1. MANAGER GAMBIA NATIONAL TROUPE, BANNA KANUTEH, WELL KNOWN GRIOT AND MUSICIAN, SPOKE WITH CHARGE APRIL 13 ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR VISIT TO US. BORN 1922, HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC AND TRADITIONAL HISTORY AT ARTS SCHOOL IN DAKAR, AND HAS PERFORMED EXTENSIVELY IN UK AND ON CONTINENT. NEVER BEFORE IN US, KANUTEH WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM AND LECTURE TO UNIVERSITY AND CIVIC GROUPS INTERESTED IN AFRICAN MUSIC AND CULTURE.

2. NATIONAL TROUPE IS ONLY GAMBIAN COMPANY FOR PROFESSIONAL AND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL SINGERS, DANCERS, AND INSTRUMENTALISTS. KANUTEH IS BOTH ITS WORKING MANAGER AND STAR PERFORMER (ESPECIALLY ON KORA, BALAFON, AND OTHER MANDINKA INSTRUMENTS).

3. PRESUMABLY, KANUTEH COULD BE CONSIDERED UNDER REGULAR IV PROGRAM FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER, EMBASSY WONDERS IF USIS AND/OR CU/AF MIGHT KNOW OF MORE SPECIALIZED EXCHANGE THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE, INCLUDING PERHAPS AT LEAST PARTIAL PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP BY US ORGANIZATION SEEKING TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL AFRICAN MUSIC. KANUTEH HOPES TO PERFORM AND LECTURE

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DURING PROPOSED VISIT, WHICH PRESUMABLY COULD INVOLVE PAYING

AUDIENCES. OF COURSE, HE ALSO HOPES MEET WITH AMERICANS WHO
SHARE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS.

4. POST WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM USIS/DAKAR AND CU/AF.
WYGANT

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Message Attributes

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